

# Contents

15.1	Introduction	15-1
15.2	Setting	15-1
15.3	Organizations and Regulations	15-1
15.4	Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Use	15-3
15.5	Recreation Activity Problems and Needs	15-3
15.6	Issues and Recommendations	15-4

## Tables

15-1	State Parks Visitation and Area	15-4
15-2	Grant Program Overview - 1995	15-6

## Figures

15-1	Recreation Facilities, Utah County	15-2
15-2	Utah Outdoor Recreation Participation by Family	15-5
15-3	Utah Outdoor Recreation Participation by Individual	15-5

# Section 15

## State Water Plan, Utah Lake Basin

### Water-Related Recreation

The Utah Lake Basin provides some of the best water-based recreation in the state. People along the Wasatch Front use basin parks and reservoirs as their playground. Three state parks in the basin received more than one million visits in 1995, up over 19 percent with the opening of Jordanelle State Park in July of that year.

#### 15.1 Introduction

This section describes how water relates to recreation. Water is part of most recreation provided



*Golf at Wasatch Mountain State Park*

by the state, from skiing to golfing, to pools in municipal recreation centers, to flat water boating on major reservoirs. Design of water access and recreation features associated with water development projects are important components of water planning and development.

#### 15.2 Setting

Traversing the basin on the newly established Great Western Trail that connects north into Canada and south into Mexico is possible. It is on Forest Service lands

along the front face and back ridges east of Utah Valley. Visitors to the area might visit Camp Floyd,

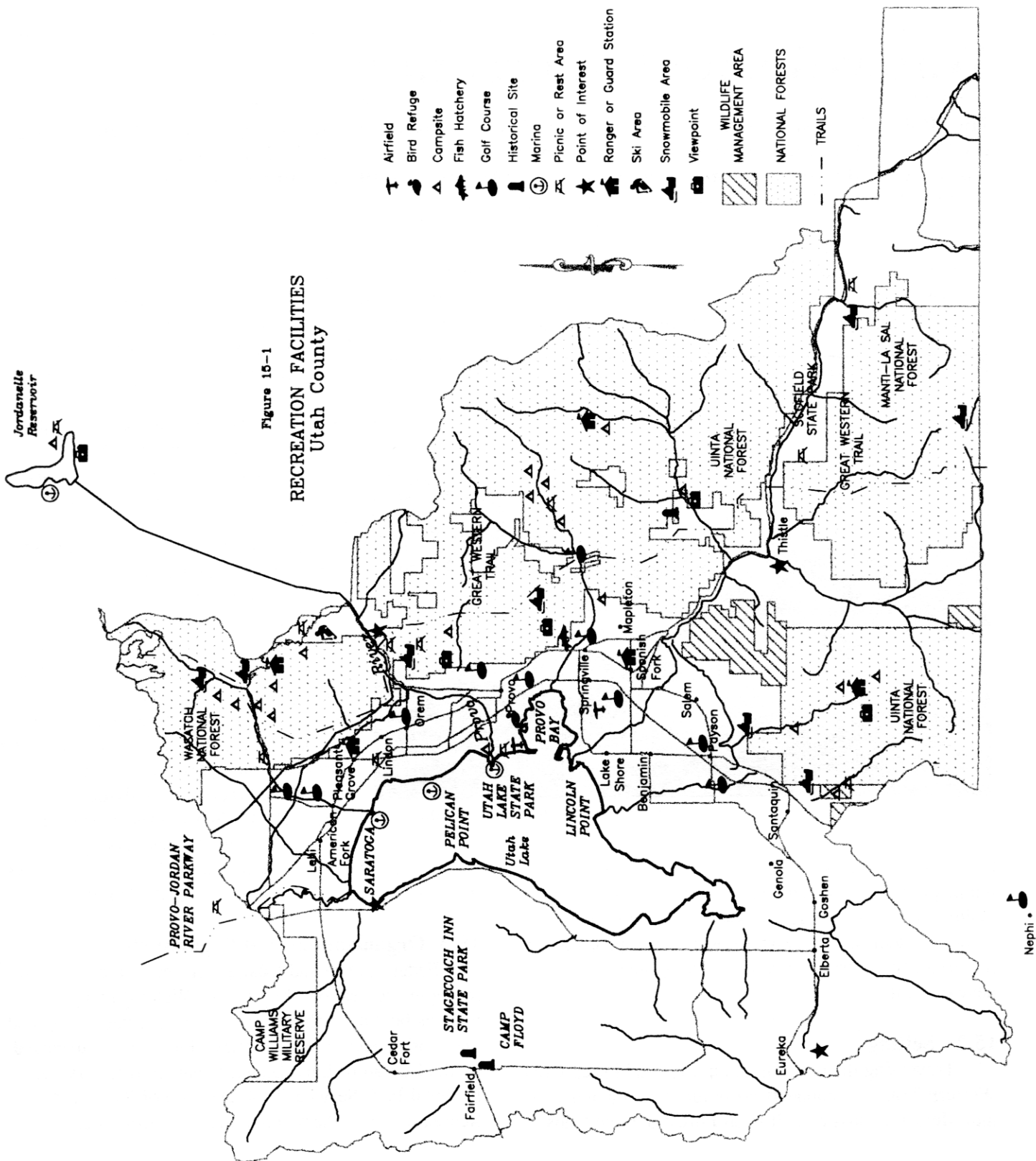
Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Lone Peak and Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness areas.

Many camp grounds are provided in the Uinta National Forest. Fishing is available at Deer Creek Reservoir, golf at Wasatch Mountains State Park and a Nature Center at Jordanelle State Park. The Provo River offers fly fishing, kayaking, and other enjoyable experiences. The Provo River Parkway Trail provides opportunities for walking, jogging, and biking. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) tours can be taken on BLM land and windsurfing on Mona Reservoir in Juab County is always fun. Boating, sunbathing or ice skating is common at Utah Lake depending on the season. Privately owned water parks and city and county parks round out the water-based recreation activities. The Utah Lake Basin provides some of the most diverse and highest quality

recreation opportunities in the state. Figure 15-1 shows most of the recreation facilities in Utah County.

#### 15.3 Organizations and Regulations

Federal, state and local governments are active in managing recreation of all types. Water directly impacts boating, fishing, swimming, golfing, skiing and many other recreation activities. Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation and others create many opportunities.



### **15.3.1 Local**

The Utah Lake Basin covers portions of two multi-county planning districts: Mountainlands (MCD 3) and Central (MCD 4). Only a small portion of the Central CD (Juab and Sanpete County) lies within the Utah Lake Basin and less than 10 percent of the population in the Central MCD lives in the basin. The Mountainlands MCD represents Summit, Wasatch and Utah counties

### **15.3.2 State**

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation has responsibility for conserving Utah's rich natural resource heritage while making its recreational opportunities available to the resident and non-resident user. Their mission is to "enhance the quality of life in Utah through parks, people and programs." The division also manages five state parks, coordinates four grant funding programs, manages OHV, boating and trails programs and prepares the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP). The Division of Wildlife Resources plants millions of fish in streams and reservoirs, and it is heavily involved in hatchery and research efforts on Utah Lake, Jordanelle and Deer Creek reservoirs. They perform law enforcement and big game management functions in the entire basin.

### **15.3.3 Federal**

Through local sponsors, the Bureau of Reclamation impounded the Provo River twice, creating Deer Creek and Jordanelle reservoirs. These impoundments, built primarily for agricultural and culinary use, have become an integral part of the recreation picture for Utahns.

## **15.4 Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Use**

Local, state and federal agencies all play a role in filling the demand for recreation facilities and managing their use. Water may be incidental or crucial to public and private recreation facilities.

### **15.4.1 Local Parks**

City and county recreation facilities range from golf courses to picnic tables. Every golf course uses millions of gallons of water annually for maintenance. Local recreation providers commonly use water in aquatic or ice skating programs, beyond landscaping needs. Ski areas, while being primarily reliant on natural snowfall, use water in snow making activities. The Utah Lake Basin has 12 golf courses and one ski

area, Sundance Resort. The basins has 15 commercial campgrounds. Provo City and Utah County manage 14 miles of Provo River Parkway from Utah Lake to Vivian Park. The county is planning an access trail around Utah Lake, with several staging areas. It has developed 12 miles of trail from Utah Lake north to the Salt Lake County line. Under the Central Utah Project, public access will be developed at specific sites along the 10 miles from Jordanelle State Park to Deer Creek Reservoir.

### **15.4.2 State Parks**

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation manages Utah Lake State Park, Deer Creek State Park, Jordanelle State Park, Camp Floyd and Wasatch Mountain State Park. Table 15-1 illustrates the natural resource base and use of state parks managed by the division. Two major boat launching ramps are available for the public: one at Deer Creek and one at Jordanelle State Park. At Jordanelle, they provide special launching areas for fast, maneuverable personal water craft. Boating capacities at Jordanelle and Deer Creek reservoirs are 300 boats on the water at the same time. Heavy demand and public safety have dictated this decision. Water levels on Jordanelle will fluctuate, leaving mud flats exposed during periods of heavy demand on its water supply.

### **15.4.3 Federal Parks**

Sixty campgrounds are within the national forests in and near the basin. Many are full service campgrounds with approved water systems. Some have lakes and streams nearby for fishing and other recreation activities. Timpanogos Cave National Monument provides hiking and picnicking facilities. Major parks are located on Bureau of Reclamation lands at Deer Creek and Jordanelle state parks. The Division of Parks and Recreation is under contract with the federal government to manage these sites for recreation uses.

## **15.5 Recreation Activity Problems and Needs**

Many opportunities exist for recreation enjoyment. Two major public opinion surveys were conducted in 1994 and completed in early 1995. They are the *Community Assessment Survey On Tourism and Recreation, Wasatch County, 1994*; and *Final Report: Utah Division of Parks and Recreation Telephone Survey, January 6, 1995*. Among the many findings

Table 15-1 STATE PARKS VISITATION AND AREA				
Park Name	1995 Visitation	Water Area (acres)	Land Area (acres)	Camping Units
Deer Creek	299,534	2,965	2,626	32
Utah Lake	599,723	96,000	296	125
Jordanelle	135,965 <sup>a</sup>	3,000	4,000	286
Camp Floyd/ Stagecoach	10,125	1	42	0
Wasatch Mountain	854,538	33	22,000	136
Total	1,899,885	101,999	28,964	579
<sup>a</sup> Opened in 1995				

are: (1) 90 percent of the state population has visited Utah State Parks--a mean of eight visited; (2) most respondents had visited three to four parks in the last year; (3) 87 percent felt it inappropriate to sell all or portions of state parks; (4) over 75 percent felt additional lands should be acquired for new state parks; (5) condemnation of private lands for parks was disfavored by 75 percent of the public; (6) 65 percent agreed that fees for campgrounds and picnicking areas should be increased; and (7) over two-thirds felt parks should limit entry when the capacity of the park is reached.

The "community assessment" found: (1) Tourism encourages investment in the local economy and environmental impacts are relatively minor, (2) there was strong sentiment that the residents should be heavily involved in all planning processes in their county, and the county should develop plans to manage the growth of tourism and recreation.

Recreation agencies in local and state government keep up with recreation planning by participating in the *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP). On a five-year cycle, it analyzes the supply and demand issues associated with outdoor recreation. Public meetings were held in Provo (MCD 3) as part of the 1992 SCORP survey.

Surveys conducted in support of the SCORP process help to identify the most popular individual and family recreation activities. Figures 15-2 and 15-3 show these relationships.

## 15.6 Issues and Recommendations

This subsection discusses three major issues: Funding, outdoor ethics and comprehensive planning.

### 15.6.1 Funding

**Issue** - Increased recreation demands on existing facilities underscore the need for additional funding.

**Discussion** - Fees are charged at many recreation areas to offset costs. In fiscal year 1994-95, the Division of Parks and Recreation received 38 percent of its budget from user fees. Facility construction and property acquisition are extremely costly. In the past, a federal program known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund provided grant funds to state and local entities for the development of recreation facilities. Administered by the National Park Service, the program accrues funds from offshore continental oil and gas lease revenues. Appropriations to the states have dropped dramatically, and federal agencies receive the bulk of available funds. The Division of Parks and Recreation administers various grant programs to help address the funding concerns. Table 15-2 shows the number of projects and the funding amounts.

The issues raised during the SCORP process are important in that they help focus agency budget efforts. A typical weekend at Deer Creek State Park shows vehicles parked along the roadside due to overflowing parking lots. The campground is full and there are many complaints regarding conflicts between users. In winter, deer or elk are found eating shrubs as land

Figure 15-2  
UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION  
BY FAMILY

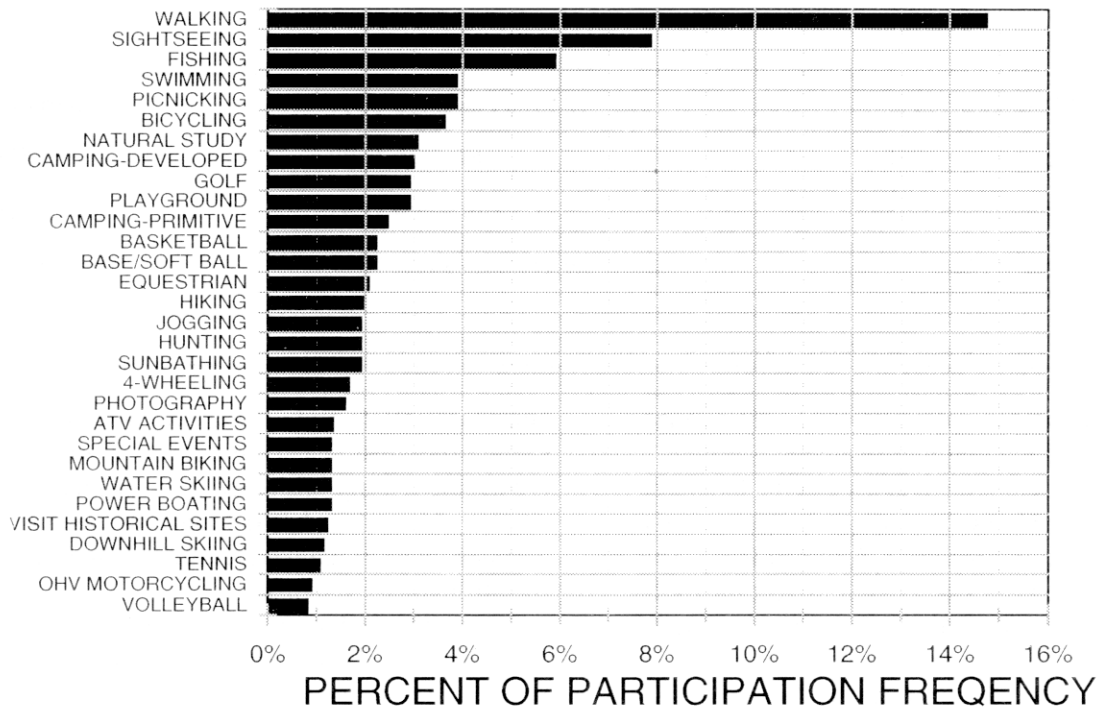


Figure 15-3  
UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION  
BY INDIVIDUAL

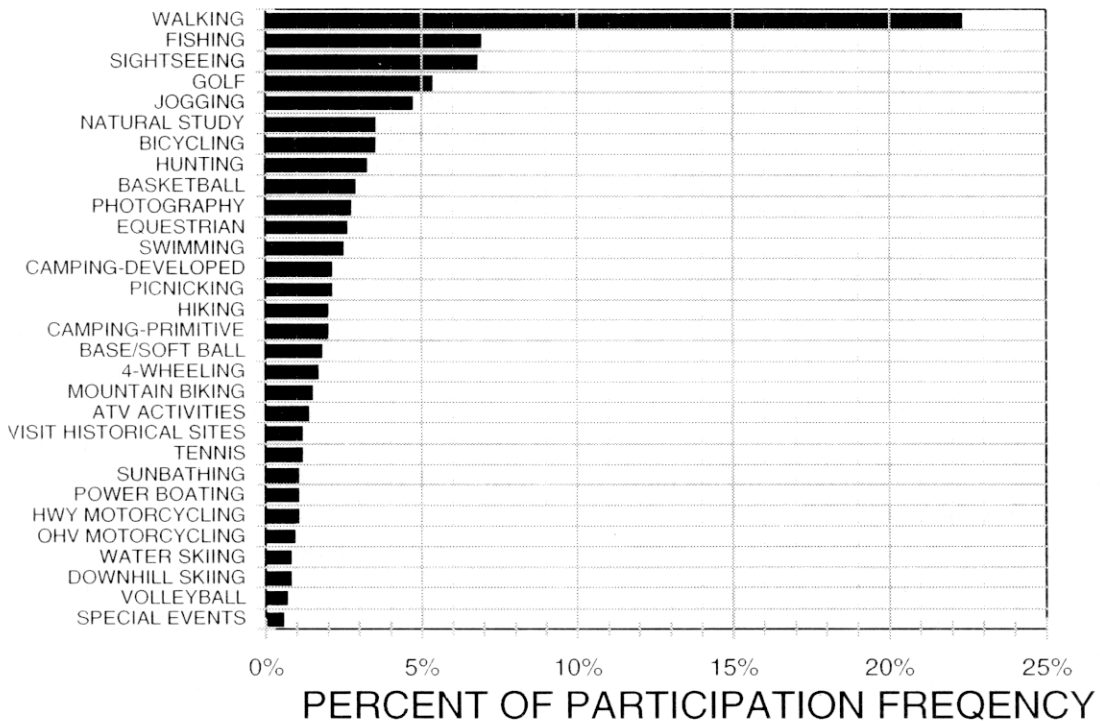


Table 15-2 GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW-1995		
Program	Number of Projects	Amount Granted <sup>a</sup> (\$)
Non-Motorized Trails	12 projects since 1991	335,000
Motorized Trails (OHV)	6 projects since 1988	71,500
Riverway Enhancement	5 projects since 1991	327,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	58 projects since 1967	6,100,000
<sup>a</sup> Does not include sponsors match		

development encroaches upon historical winter range. Alternate means of funding improvements, such as container deposits, equipment taxes and the like have been proposed to address recreation's budget concerns. The most palatable alternative is increased fees. This is consistent with the 1995 study noted in Section 15.5. Park users stress the need to see their fees used in the park where they are paid. A formal program is suggested in *Frontiers 2000: A System Plan to Guide State Parks and Recreation into the Twenty-first Century*. Fifteen major challenges are cited by a statewide steering committee related to recreation associated with water developments. Park operation and maintenance remain under-funded, compromising safety and quality experiences of park visitors. In keeping with the spirit of "Frontiers 2000," the Division of Parks and Recreation may increase fees to cover operation and maintenance costs, establish a renovation sinking fund through a dedicated surcharge on use of park facilities, and prepare an annual accountability report showing park improvement and maintenance projects.

**Recommendation** - Funding recommendations provided in "Frontiers 2000" should be pursued.

### 15.6.2 Outdoor Ethics

**Issue** - Many conflicts are exacerbated by unethical behavior in recreation settings.

**Discussion** - One common conflict is the operation of personal watercraft without regard for other user's safety or recreation experience. The popularity of the activity has boating safety managers grappling with different solutions. Some success with this and other problems has been achieved through such programs as TREAD LIGHTLY, Division of Wildlife Resources

hunter education, and off-highway vehicle and boating safety programs. The continuation of education and enforcement programs based on principled behavior is crucial. More than 1,000 youth have been trained and certified on personal watercraft, and more than 10,000 for off-highway vehicles.

**Recommendation** - The Division of Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with other recreation agencies, should organize focus groups with recreators and managers from throughout the state to obtain ideas and support from all members of the recreation community.

### 15.6.3 Comprehensive Planning

**Issue** - Comprehensive planning for allocation of recreation resources in this basin is vital.

**Discussion** - This basin plan represents a sampling of the state's initiative in addressing the challenge. The Bureau of Reclamation recently completed a resource management plan for Deer Creek State Park. The Division of Parks and Recreation, which does planning on all areas it manages, completed a *Wasatch Mountain State Park Resource Management Plan* in 1995.

Trail connections from Vivian Park along the Provo River into Deer Creek and Wasatch Mountain State Parks can be secured and developed, connecting the Wasatch Front with the basin's back valleys. Recreation planning and water access should continue to be factored into pipeline, canal, utility and Provo River enhancement projects.

**Recommendation** - The Division of Parks and Recreation should continue to implement findings of the Deer Creek Resource Management Plan to balance use and resource capacity to achieve sustainability of water resource uses for recreation. ❖ ❖